

Response
Serial No. 09/400,833
Attorney Docket No. 991059

REMARKS

Claims 2, 3 and 19-31 are pending in this application, of which claim 20 has been amended and claims 21-31 have been added.

(1) Claims 2, 3, 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Raimondi (6216572 B1).

Claim 20 has been amended to incorporate the limitations that the workpiece-machining device comprises a machining section and a workpiece-feeding device that feeds a workpiece to the machining section. Claim 31 has been added to further limit the workpiece-feeding device. The basis is found at page 7, line 10 to page 8, line 1. The invention of amended claim 20 calls for the workpiece-feeding device in addition to the work-transfer device recited in the preamble, which reduces the time required for the machining cycle. The features of claim 20 are not disclosed by Raimondi, so the rejection of claim 20, as amended, is not supported by Raimondi. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

As to claim 19, the Examiner states that Raimondi teaches a product-housing section 22 capable of storing skeletons. However, Raimondi does not disclose a skeleton-housing section additionally provided in the product-housing section. Thus, the rejection of claim 19 is not supported by Raimondi. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

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(2) Claims 21 and 22 have been added, whose basis is found at claim 20 and page 7, line 10 to page 8, line 1. Claims 22-24 have been added, whose basis is found at claim 19.

The same argument as claims 2, 3, 19 and 20 is applied to these added claims.

(3) The basis of claims 25-28 is found at claims 19 and 20, and the basis of claims 29 and 30 is found at page 7, line 10 to page 8, line 1.

As to claims 25-28, the Examiner states that Raimondi teaches a product-housing section 22 capable of storing skeletons. However, Raimondi does not disclose a skeleton-housing section additionally provided in the product-housing section.

As to claims 29 and 30, the invention further calls for the workpiece-feeding device in addition to the work-transfer device, which reduces the time required for the machining cycle. The features of claims 29 and 30 are not disclosed by Raimondi.

(4) In view of the above, claims 2, 3 and 19-30, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

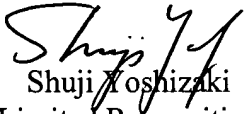
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If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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